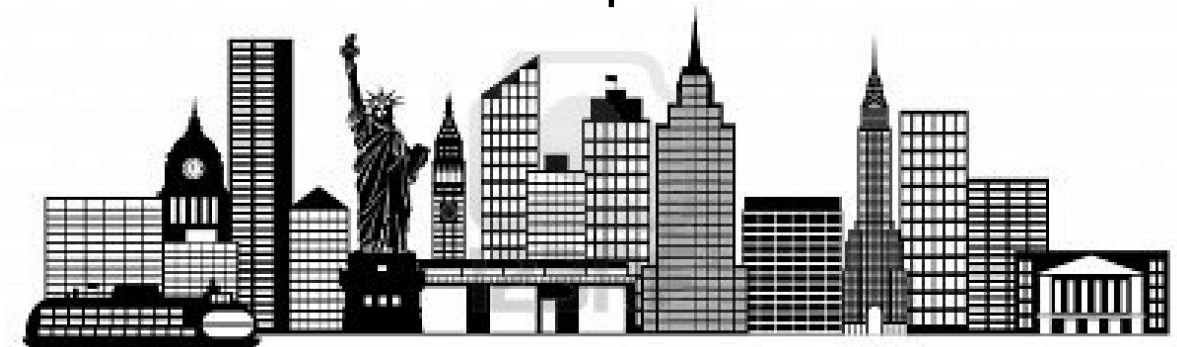
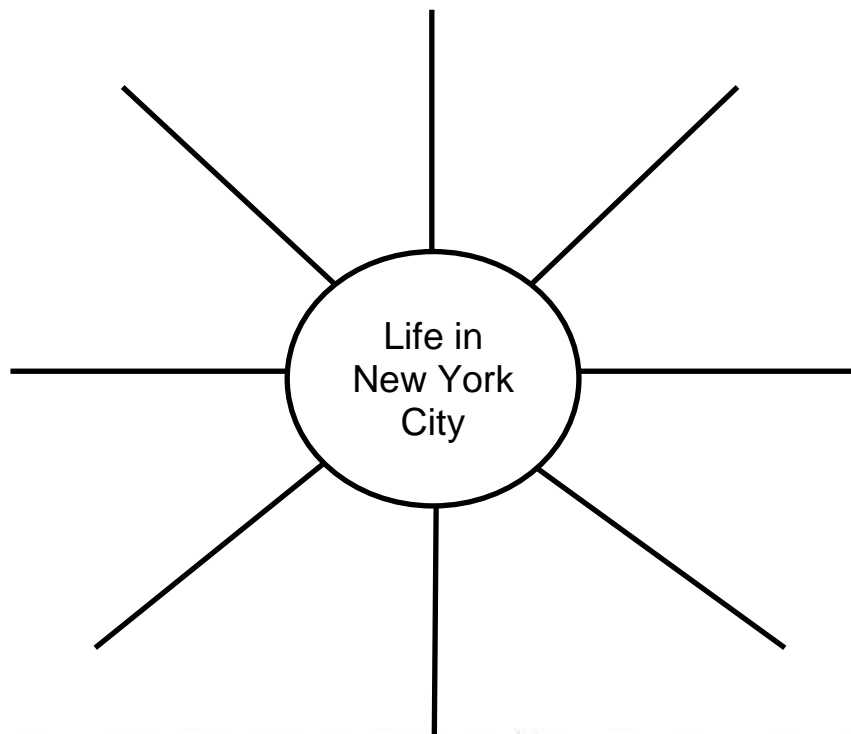


**Pre-Reading Questions & Activities**

**I. Connect to the characters:**

1. Do you have any older siblings? What is your relationship to them?
2. If something happened to both your parents, would you and your siblings be able to stay together? If you don't have any siblings, what would happen to you? What sacrifices would you (and your siblings) have to make?
3. What makes some young people turn to crime? What can we do to turn them around?

- II. Connect to the setting:** Thinking about the setting of a book gives the reader focus for the story. This story is set in New York City. What do you picture and feel when you think of New York City? Web your ideas about life in New York City. Think about your personal experiences, and what you know from TV shows, the news, movies or song lyrics.





- III. **Directions:** Each of the following words has more than one meaning in the story. **Guess** what the two meanings are and write down your ideas. (After you read the book, refer back to this handout and see if you guessed correctly.)

1. “Brothers”

- a. Standard –
- b. Slang-

2. “Bad”

- a. Standard-
- b. Slang-

3. “Hang”

- a. Standard-
- b. Slang-

4. “Step”

- a. Standard-
- b. Slang-

5. “Crossed”

- a. Standard-
- b. Slang-

- IV. **Directions:** Using your own words, define the following word: **STEREOTYPING** (*verb*)



Write a brief paragraph about a group or groups you belong to and a stereotype you experience as a member of that group. What stereotypes have you faced and how have they made you feel? Where do you think these stereotypes come from?

